

COLORADO STATE BOARD OF PHARMACY
February 14, 2008

Minutes

The Colorado State Board of Pharmacy meeting was convened by President E Katherine Edelblut, RPh at approximately 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, February 14, 2008 at 1560 Broadway, Conference Room #1550, Denver, CO.

Board members attending were: Jeannine G. Dickerhofe, RPh; Rich Doyle, RPh; E. Katherine Edelblut, RPh; Leonard L. Hierath, PE, Paul Limberis, RPh; Mitchell P. Sprier, RPh; and Averil Strand, RN.

Staff members attending were Susan Miller, Section Director; Wendy Anderson, Program Director; Chief Inspector Chris Gassen, Inspectors Mark O'Neill, RPh, Susan Martin, RPh, and Billie Marseilles, RPh, and Tia Johnson, Complaint Analyst.

Registration / Licensure / Certification of Pharmacy Technicians

The Board reviewed information documenting licensure/certification/registration by other State Boards of Pharmacy of pharmacy technicians. The Board discussed the potential of licensure/certification/registration of pharmacy technicians in the State of Colorado. Susan Miller, Section Director, informed the Board that if the Board decides to move towards some type of licensure/certification/registration of pharmacy technicians, the Board will have to do so through the legislative process, and suggested that the Board could do so during the Sunrise/Sunset process, which will occur for the Board of Pharmacy Pharmaceuticals and Pharmacists Act beginning in 2012. Upon thorough review, the Board decided to create a task force concerning the licensure/certification/registration of pharmacy technicians. Discussion was held concerning converting members to the task force, to ensure fair representation across the spectrum of those involved in the practice of pharmacy.

Drug Therapy Management and Rule 6.00.00

The Board reviewed information concerning Drug Therapy Management and Rule 6.00.00. Discussion centered on clarification of Drug Therapy Management and interpretation of this rule. After review and discussion, the Board determined that the language in sections 6.00.60 and 6.01.20 is acceptable as currently written, however, discussion was held concerning potential clarification to the language in section 6.00.30. Board members E. Katherine Edelblut, RPh, and Paul Limberis, RPh, and Inspector Billie Marseilles, RPh, will work together to draft some changes to section 6.00.30, which will be forwarded for Board review upon completion.

Medication Packaging

Board member Paul Limberis, RPh, presented information to the Board concerning new technology for medication packaging/re-packaging. Discussion centered on whether this technology meets all the requirements in the Board of Pharmacy Rules and Regulations for the packaging/re-packaging of medications. Wendy Anderson, Program Director, and Chris Gassen, Chief Inspector, stated that they would go and physically inspect one of the packaging/re-packaging machines, and would bring further information back to the Board.

Telepharmacy

The Board reviewed information documenting the practice of telepharmacy in other states. Discussion was held concerning the potential of telepharmacy practice in Colorado, and what steps the Board of Pharmacy should take, to ensure that the practice of telepharmacy was appropriately regulated, if allowed. Discussion centered on the methods of telepharmacy, including audio, video, and prescription vending machines. Discussion was also held concerning the practice of telepharmacy in an urban vs. a rural setting, and concerning which types of sites would potentially be appropriate for telepharmacy. The Board also held discussion concerning appropriate supervision and operation of these facilities, including review of information concerning potential responsibilities for both licensed and unlicensed individuals, and whether it would be appropriate for controlled substances to be at these types of facilities, and whether these types of facilities would only be able to be used for the first fill of a prescription, and not allowed for prescription refills. The Board directed staff to gather more information concerning telepharmacy from other state boards of pharmacy and to present the findings at a future Board meeting.

State Health Departments

Board member Averil Strand, RN, presented information to the Board concerning the Other Outlet registration requirements, and how these requirements affect state and county health departments. Ms. Strand presented information to the Board to describe how these facilities are run, and gave information to demonstrate the time and financial constraints these types of facilities often operate under. Statutory changes may be recommended to eliminate the need for health departments to obtain an Other Outlet registration. Wendy Anderson, Program Director, stated that she would contact the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP) to see if that organization had obtained any kind of research or information concerning the regulation of these types of facilities.

Internet Pharmacy

Wendy Anderson, Program Director, informed the Board that the practice of internet pharmacy is changing. Ms. Anderson stated that it is becoming more common for a patient to complete an online questionnaire, and the prescribing practitioner or agent of that physician to mail the prescription order directly to the patient. Patients then are taking these prescription orders to local pharmacies for dispensing. Upon thorough review and discussion, the Board directed staff to ensure that internet pharmacy is a permanent newsletter item, in order to inform all individuals and entities engaged in the practice of pharmacy in Colorado of these trends and their application to Regulations 3.00.20 and 3.00.21.

Program Director's Report

Ms. Anderson provided a brief update concerning an epilepsy bill, currently in the legislative process. This bill proposes that no substitutions may be made on prescriptions for epilepsy medication. Ms. Anderson stated that this is the only bill currently going through the legislative process which will have any effect on the Colorado Board of Pharmacy.

Ms. Anderson stated that cases are being initiated against businesses that are found to be distributing prescription drugs into Colorado without a Board registration. However, these same businesses are also seeking a Board registration while their corresponding case is still open with the Board. Ms. Anderson asked the Board if it wants to see both the case and the application at the same Board meeting.

After brief discussion, the Board directed staff to present both the business' case and its corresponding completed application for review during the normal course of its business at the same regularly scheduled meeting.

Ms. Anderson stated that Colorado's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) became live effective February 4, 2008.

Pharmacist Intern Licensure Issues

Delal Arshed Alkortas, IN #2003134, PHA applicant

After due consideration of the available information concerning Ms. Alkortas pharmacist licensure application, the Board directed that staff inform the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP), that it is acceptable to release an authorization to test number for Ms. Alkortas, and directed staff to continue to process Ms. Alkortas' pharmacist licensure application.

After due consideration of the available information, the Board voted to dismiss case #2008-2269, filed against Ms. Alkortas' pharmacist intern license.

Pharmacist Renewal Issues

Camille N. Pacheco-Gach, RPh 13322

The Board reviewed information demonstrating Ms. Pacheco-Gach's submission of continuing education credits for renewal of pharmacist licensure, which were completed after the date for which Ms. Pacheco-Gach affirmed their completion.

After due consideration, the Board voted to initiate a complaint against Ms. Pacheco-Gach's pharmacist license and pharmacy practice.

The Board adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

Approved by: E. Katherine Edelblut, President

Date: March 20, 2008